

TELEGRAM

INCOMING AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

Pol 15-1

SECRET

ACTION)
POL-2

Classification

Control: 9284

CHRON
RF

Recd: 1245
26 JUN 68

P R 261420Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2549
RUEOJFA/DIA WASHDC UNN
INFO RUESUP/AMCONGEN SAO PAULO 1277
RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 1912
RULPAL/CINCSO
STATE GRNC
BT
SECRET RIO DE JANEIRO 9284

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CINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: RUMOR OF PLOT AGAINST COSTA E SILVA

1. THE EMBASSY JOINT REPORTS COORDINATING COMMITTEE HAS CAREFULLY EVALUATED A REPORT OF A CONSPIRACY TO REPLACE PRESIDENT COSTA E SILVA FILED BY THE CONSULATE, SAO PAULO AND CONCLUDES THAT IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT SUCH A COUP PLOT EXISTED OR EXISTS. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT INFORMATION ON SUCH A PLOT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT AS THE REPORT MAINTAINS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE ORIGINAL SOURCE, RETIRED ARMY GENERAL MAURICIO PORTO CARREIRO, WHO CONSULATE SAYS IS "AT DISPOSITION SECOND ARMY" AND EXTREME HARDLINER CLOSE TO PRESIDENT, AND WHO REPORTED THE STORY TO A LOCAL EMPLOYEE OF THE CONSULATE, GENERAL SYSENO SARMENTO, COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE FIRST ARMY IN RIO, WAS THE MASTERMIND OF THE PLOT WHICH SAID HAVE SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR ABREU SODRE AND NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER JULIO MESQUITA. SYSENO AND HIS MILITARY ASSOCIATES WERE TO ARREST THE PRESIDENT IN RIO LAST WEEK -- DURING THE STUDENT AGITATION -- AND TO INSTALL SYSENO AS THE NEW PRESIDENT. THE RATIONALE FOR THE COUP WOULD HAVE BEEN THE UNSTABLE POLITICAL AND SECURITY SITUATION AND GOVERNMENT FAILURE SOLVE EDUCATIONAL, SALARY AND COST OF LIVING PROBLEMS. ACCORDING SOURCE PRESENT DID NOT VISIT RIO BECAUSE INFORMED BY SNI OF THE PLOT. SOURCE SAID HE GOT INFORMATION FROM MILITARY CONTACTS IN SAO PAULO AND BRASILIA WHO CLOSE TO COSTA E SILVA.

3. SOURCE ACCORDING SAO PAULO LOCAL EMPLOYEE IS

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NATIONALIST AND ANTI-AMERICAN, IS LOYAL TO PRESIDENT AND FAVORS GENERAL JAIME PORTELLA OR ALBUQUERQUE LIMA AS PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSOR, AND IS MANEUVERING GET APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF FEDERAL POLICE IN SAO PAULO. HE ALSO AWARE LOCAL EMPLOYEE INFORMANT WORKS FOR CONSULATE AND WOULD PROBABLY REPORT INFORMATION.

4. AS FAR AS EMBASSY CAN DETERMINE, THE PRESIDENT HAD NO INTENTION VISIT RIO LAST WEEK. CURRENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT HE DOES NOT PLAN TO COME HERE UNTIL JULY 12. MOREOVER, ALL EVIDENCE POINTS TO GENERAL SYSENO AS A CLOSE SUPPORTER OF COSTA E SILVA WHO ENJOYS HIS FULL CONFIDENCE AND WAS REWARDED WITH THE KEY FIRST ARMY BILLET ON THAT BASIS. ANOTHER IMPORTANT FACTOR IS THAT SYSENO HAS NOT BEEN IN HIS NEW JOB LONG ENOUGH TO HAVE GAINED CONTROL OF KEY UNIT COMMANDERS -- MOST OF WHOM WERE APPOINTED BY COSTA E SILVA OR HIS EMINENCE GRISE -- GENERAL PORTELLA.

5. IN VIEW FACT SYSENO AND PORTELLA BELIEVED BE ON UNFRIEDNLY TERMS, IT IS POSSIBLE SOMEONE FED STOTY TO PORTELLA IN ORDER TO GAIN FAVOR WITH HIM BY CASTING SUSPICION ON SYSENO.

6. WHILE JRCC JUDGES STORY OF PLOT TO BE FALSE, POSSIBLE RELEVANCE OF UNUSUALLY VIOLENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE JUNE 22 BY GENERAL LISBOA, COMMANDER OF SECOND ARMY IN SAO PAULO, MAKE RUMOR WORTHY OF FURTHER CHECKOUT. LISBOA'S BOASTS OF THE STRENGTH AND COHESIVENESS OF HIS UNITS AGAINST COMMUNICISTS, NAZIS, LEFTISTS, RIGHTISTS, AND ANY OTHER SHADE OF "ENEMY" WERE STATED IN HIGHLY AGGRESSIVE TERMS AND INCLUDED AN ASSERTION THAT THE SECOND ARMY HAD THE CAPABILITY TO INERVENE AS FAR AWAY AS GUANABARA STATE (GENERAL SYSENO'S DOMAIN). THIS IS MOST UNUSUAL REMARK AND HAS ARMY MEN WONDERING ABOUT ITS SIGNIFICANCE. IF, IN FACT, GENERAL PORTO CARREIRO'S STORY GOT TO GENERAL PORTELLA, WHO IS PROTECTOR (AND RELATIVE) OF GENERAL LISBOA, THE LATTER MIGHT HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BY PORTELLA TO CONVEY A "SUBTLE MESSAGE" TO SYSENO.

7. ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DEVELOPED WILL BE REPORTED PROMPTLY. GP-1M TUTHILL

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